



# Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

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[www.manchesternh.gov/urbanponds](http://www.manchesternh.gov/urbanponds)

## Have You Seen These Culprits? Exotic Plants of Stevens Pond



### Common Reed (*Phragmites communis*)

- Native to Europe.
- Erect stems can grow up to 15 feet high and end in dense floral heads.
- Floral heads are purplish when young and white or light brown and feathery when mature.
- Flowers from late July through October.
- Long, pointed green leaves grow up to 2 feet long and 2 inches wide.
- Stands of common reed disperse seeds, or pieces of underground stems, called rhizomes.
- Once established, stands grow predominately by sending up new shoots each spring from existing rhizomes, or from runners.
- If stem is knocked over it can act like a rhizome by taking root and producing new shoots.
- Grows in sunny, wetland habitats.
- Also found in fresh marshes, pond margins, swamps, and ditches.
- Can also tolerate brackish and saline waters.
- Prevalent in wet areas that have disturbed or polluted soils.
- Human activities such as road and housing development have made the invasion quite successful in adjacent wetland areas.



### Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*)

- Native of Europe.
- Shrub or small tree that produces small dark fruits.
- Fruits occur singly or in small groups.
- Birds which eat fruits cause spread of plant.
- Grows in fens, marshes, and bogs.
- Also grows in forests, fencerows, wood edges, prairies, and old fields.
- When plant invades a natural area it displaces the native species by the dense shade produced by the stand.



### Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

- Native to Europe & Asia
- Introduced to North American in the early to mid 1800's by ship ballast or for use as an ornamental plant.
- Perennial herb with square, woody stems and opposite whorled leaves.
- Purple flowers bloom from late June through August.
- One adult plant can produce 2.5-2.7 million seeds annually.
- Seeds are viable for many years.
- Seeds easily dispersed and transported by water, wind, bird feathers, animal fur, footwear, boats, boat trailers.
- Can grow as an individual stalk or as several stalks clumped together.
- Resprouts from broken stems, underground roots, and plant fragments.
- Grows in freshwater marshes, wet meadows, open stream margins, and floodplains.
- Prefers moist soils, fluctuating water levels, and full sunlight. Can also grow in disturbed sites.
- Can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions and can establish itself on a variety of substrates.



Fact-Sheet by Jen Drociak  
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